

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A rectangular floorboard for a patterned floating floor, the floorboard comprising:
 - integrated connectors at least along opposing long edges of the floor board
 - 5 for locking together the floorboard with a second similar floorboard;
 - wherein upper edge portions of the floorboard and upper edge portions of the second floorboard, in a joined state, together define a vertical plane;
 - the connectors are adapted for locking together the floorboard and the second floorboard in a horizontal direction, perpendicular to the vertical plane;
 - 10 The connectors are also adapted for locking together the floorboard and the second floorboard in a vertical direction, perpendicular to a main plane of the floorboard; and
 - a long edge of the floorboard has a length not exceeding 80 cm. and a short edge of the floorboard has a length not exceeding 10 cm.
- 15 2. The floorboard as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connectors are adapted for locking together the floorboard and the second floorboard at least by means of inward angling, whereby the upper edge portions contact each other.
3. The floorboard as claimed in claim 2, wherein the connectors are adapted for releasing the floorboard and the second floorboard by means of
- 20 upward angling, away from a sub-floor.
4. The floorboard as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second floorboard is substantially identical with the floorboard.

5. The floorboard as claimed in claim 1, wherein the floorboard has a surface layer comprising a thermosetting resin.

6. The floorboard as claimed in claim 1, wherein the floorboard has a surface layer comprising wood or wood veneer.

5 7. The floorboard as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connectors comprise a separate part which projects beyond the joint edge and which is mechanically joined with a core of the floorboard.

8. The floorboard as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the edges opposing each other in pairs on the long edges of the floorboards includes a
10 projecting locking element integrated with the floorboard, and an opposing one of the edges in the same pair includes a locking groove for receiving the locking element of an adjoining floorboard.

9. The floorboard as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface of the floorboard has a decoration and a shape corresponding to a traditional parquet
15 block with a length exceeding 15 cm. and a width exceeding 4 cm.

10. A patterned floating flooring having a pattern which is provided by respective shapes of floorboards constituting the patterned floating flooring, wherein the patterned floating flooring comprises a plurality of the floorboard claimed in claim 1.

20 11. The patterned floating flooring as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pattern is provided such that at least two of said floorboards are arranged such that

at least one short edge of a first of the at least two floorboards is aligned with at least one short edge of a second of the at least two floorboards.

12. The patterned floating flooring as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pattern is provided such that the short edges of two floorboards, which are locked together along their respective long edges, are mutually displaced relative to each other.

13. A block of floorboards for providing a floating flooring, wherein the block comprises at least two floorboards as claimed in claim 1, the at least two floorboards being arranged such that at least one short edge of a first of the at least two floorboards is aligned with at least one short edge of a second of the at least two floorboards.

14. The block of floorboards as claimed in claim 13, wherein the block is square, such that a first edge of the block coincides with a long edge of one of the at least two floorboards and a second edge, which is perpendicular to the first edge, coincides with the short edges of the at least two floorboards.

15. Rectangular floorboards comprising a surface layer and a core with two long sides and two short sides, for making a floating flooring, which floorboards are mechanically lockable and which along their four sides have pairs of opposing connectors for locking similar, adjoining floorboards to each other both vertically and horizontally wherein the long sides have a length not exceeding 80 cm and the short sides have a width not exceeding 10 cm.

16. The floorboards as claimed in claim 15, wherein the connectors of the floorboards on at least one long side or short side comprise a separate part

which projects from an upper joint edge and which is mechanically joined with the core of the floorboard.

17. The floorboards as claimed in claim 15, wherein the surface layer is made of laminate with a length exceeding 15 cm. and a width exceeding 4 cm.

5 18. The floorboards as claimed in claim 15, wherein the surface layer of each of the floorboards has a decoration and a shape corresponding to a traditional parquet block with a length of 30-50 cm and a width of 5-8 cm.

19. The floorboards as claimed in claim 15, wherein the long sides can be joined by inward angling with upper joint edges in contact with each other.

10 20. The floorboards as claimed in claim 15, wherein the joint sides opposing each other in pairs on the long sides of the floorboards comprise a projecting locking element integrated with the floorboard, and the opposing side in the same pair comprises a locking groove for holding the locking element of an adjoining floorboard.

15 21. A method of manufacturing a rectangular floorboard having long edges and short edges, the long edges being provided with a locking system comprising integrated connectors for locking together the floorboard with a second floorboard, the method comprising:

linearly displacing relative to each other a floor element comprising at least
20 two floor panels and a set of tools for machining a first pair of opposing edge portions on the floor element, to provide at least part of a first pair of connectors;
dividing the floor element into at least two floor panels; and

linearly displacing relative to each other the floor panels and a set of tools for machining a second pair of opposing edge portions on each of the floor panels, to provide at least part of a second pair of connectors.

22. The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the machining of the
5 first pair of opposing edge portions of the floor element comprises machining at least part of the first pair of connectors provided at the short edges.

23. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein a long edge of the floorboard is provided with a length not exceeding 80 cm. and a short edge of the floorboard is provided with a length not exceeding 10 cm.

10 24. A method for manufacturing rectangular floorboards having a surface layer and a core with long sides and short sides, for making a floating flooring, which floorboards are mechanically lockable and which along their four sides have pairs of opposing connectors for locking similar, adjoining floorboards to each other both vertically and horizontally to provide a floating flooring with
15 mechanically lockable floorboards, the method comprising:

linearly displacing relative to each other a floor element comprising at least two floor panels and a set of tools for machining a first pair of opposing edge portions of the floor element, to provide at least part of a first pair of connecting means,

20 dividing the floor element into at least two floor panels, and

linearly displacing relative to each other, the floor panels and a set of tools for machining a second pair of opposing edge portions of the floor panels, to provide at least part of a second pair of connecting means.

25. A method for making a floor of mechanically locked rectangular floorboards joined in parallel rows with long sides and short sides, which floorboards along their four sides have pairs of opposing connectors for locking similar, adjoining floorboards both vertically and horizontally, the connectors of the floorboards being designed so that two opposite joint edges on the long sides can be locked by inward angling, the method comprising:

placing a second floorboard in a second row at an angle to a first floorboard in a first row and contacting the same, by an upper joint edge, with a joint edge of the first floorboard,

locking a new floorboard in a second row to a short side of the second floorboard in the second row, so that the upper joint edge of the new floorboard contacts the joint edge of the first floorboard,

laterally displacing both the new and the second floorboard parallel to the long side of the first floorboard,

the lateral displacement being longer than the length of the floorboards, and angling down the second and the new floorboard after lateral displacement.

26. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the length and the width of the floorboards do not exceed 80 and 10 cm. respectively.

27. A method for installing a flooring comprising a first and a second type of rectangular floorboards, each floorboard being provided, along opposing long edges and along opposing short edges, with integrated connectors for locking together the floorboard with a similar floorboard,

such that upper edge portions of the floorboard and the similar floorboard, in a joined state, together define a vertical plane,

whereby the connectors are adapted for locking together the floorboard and the similar floorboard in a horizontal direction, perpendicular to the vertical plane, and

5 whereby the connectors are adapted for locking together the floorboard and the similar floorboard in a vertical direction, perpendicular to a main plane of the floorboard,

whereby the long edges have a length which is an even multiple of a length of the short edges,

10 whereby the first type of floorboard, as compared with the second type of floorboard, is mirror-inverted with regard to the connectors, and

whereby the first and the second types of floorboard are joinable to each other long side against short side, short side against short side and long side against long side, the method being wherein the installation of the flooring comprises the step of joining by inwards angling, two respective, essentially
15 identical short edges of two floorboards of the first type with a long edge of a floorboard of the second type.

28. The method as claimed in claim 27, characterized by joining the two floorboards of the first type with each other along their respective long edges prior to the inwards angling.

20 29. A flooring system comprising a first and a second type of rectangular floorboards, each floorboard comprising:

along opposing long edges and along opposing short edges, with integrated connectors for locking together the floorboard with a similar floorboard,

such that upper edge portions of the floorboard and the similar floorboard,
25 in a joined state, together define a vertical plane,

whereby the connectors are adapted for locking together the floorboard and the similar floorboard in a horizontal direction, perpendicular to the vertical plane, and

5 whereby the connectors are adapted for locking together the floorboard and the similar floorboard in a vertical direction, perpendicular to a main plane of the floorboard,

wherein the long edges have a length which is an even multiple of a length of the short edges,

10 the first type of floorboard, is mirror-inverted as compared with the second type of floorboard, with regard to the connectors, and

the first and the second types of floorboards are joinable to each other long side against short side, short side against short side and long side against long side.

15 30. The flooring system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first and second types of floorboards are joinable by inward angling, whereby upper joint edges contact each other.

31. The flooring system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the floorboard has a surface layer comprising a thermosetting resin.

20 32. A flooring system comprising first and second types of rectangular floorboards, and third and fourth types of rectangular floorboards, each of the floorboards being provided, along opposing long edges and along opposing short edges, with integrated connectors for locking together the floorboard with a similar floorboard, such that upper edge portions of the floorboard and the similar floorboard, in a joined state, together define a vertical plane,

whereby the connectors are adapted for locking together the floorboard and the similar floorboard in a horizontal direction, perpendicular to the vertical plane, and

5 whereby the connectors are adapted for locking together the floorboard and the similar floorboard in a vertical direction, perpendicular to a main plane of the floorboard,

wherein the long edges have a length which is an even multiple of a length of the short edges,

10 a multiple of the first and second types of floorboards is smaller than a multiple of the third and the fourth types of floorboards,

the first type of floorboard and the third type of floorboard, as compared with the second type of floorboard and the fourth type of floorboard, respectively, are mirror-inverted with regard to the connectors, and

15 all of the first, second, third and fourth types of floorboards are joinable with each other long side against short side, short side against short side and long side against long side.